law suit filed by Indian American investors in a Federal District Court. M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited are also not aware of any law suit filed against the company by individual investors.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation package for the deep-sea fishing industry

2806. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3639 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to incorporate the best aspects of the FAO plan to the rehabilitation packages for the deep-sea fishing industry;

(b) what further steps are in the offing to make an acceptable rehabilitation programme for this sick sector; and

(c) whether Government have examined the possibility of subsidising the high costs of port dues in Visakhapatnam owned by the fishing industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGAI) : (a) The recommendations made in the FAO report relate to Demonstration Commercial Fishing (DCF) for diversification of a part of the present fishing fleet; easier credit facilities; and incentives in the form of subsidy/grant-in-aid. The World Bank has communicated that deep sea fishing is not one of the priorities of their Agricultural Division pipeline. However, the Government is already giving assistance for diversified fishing under a Plan Scheme. Interest subsidy and diesel subsidy are also being provided to the deep sea fishing sector.

(b) In order to examine the problems of this sector as a whole, a Technical Committee has been constituted which will examine the issues involved and suggest remedial measures.

(c) No, Sir.

Central Excise rebate for the marine fishing industry

2807. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken up with the Finance Ministry to restore the Central Excise rebate which was earlier in operation for the marine fishing industry; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had taken up the matter regarding restoration of Central Excise Rebate for the Deep Sea Fishing Industry with the Finance Ministry. However, the Finance Ministry had not agreed to the same.

Grant of Charter Permits to Sick Fishing Units

2808. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question 1742 given in Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1993 and state :

(a) whether Government would consider the need of sick fishing units for special and specific dispensation for grant of charter permits; and

(b) whether it is a fact that liquidity of resources is the main requirement of sick fishing units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) The basic objectives for grant of Permits to entrepreneurs for chartering foreign fishing vessels are the following :

(i) To establish the abundance and distribution of fishery resources in deep seas in the Indian EEZ;

(ii) To assess suitable craft and gear for economic operation;

(iii) Transfer of technology;

(iv) To enlarge deep sea fishing fleet on ownership basis; and

(v) To establish overseas market for non-conventional fish.

This policy was never meant to be a rehabilitation measure for the sick units. Further, the Government is not entertaining any applications for grant of fresh Charter Permits. However, Government entertains applications from entrepreneurs for grant of permission for joint ventures, leasing and test fishing in deep sea fishing sector.